Message Text

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INFO OCT-01 ARA-10 ISO-00 SSO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 USIE-00 INRE-00 /027 W

-----117557 191739Z /42

O 192635Z JUL 77 ZFF-6 FM AMEMBASSY SAN SALVADOR TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 4926 INFO CINCSO IMMEDIATE AMEMBASSY TEGUCIGALPA IMMEDIATE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE SAN SALVADOR 3353

E.O. 11655: N/A

TAGS: MILI, OCLR, ES

SUBJECT: OAS OBSERVER TEAM AND HELICOPTERS

REF: SAN SALVADOR 3211

1. GOES HAS RAISED OBJECTIONS TO INSPECTION BY CINCSO
TEAM OF BORDER AREA USING US HELICOPTERS ASSIGNED
TO OAS OBSERVER TEAM. THIS WAS PLANNED FROM TEGUCIGALPA
ON 20 JULY AFTER TEAM HAD COMPLETED ITS VISIT TO
SAN SALVADOR TODAY (19 JULY). APPARENTLY REQUEST FOR APPROVAL
OF GOES THROUGH OAS CHANNELS WAS ON TRACK WHEN GOVERNMENT OF
HONDURAS THREW INTO EL SALVADOR'S LAP MATTER OF FLIGHT OVER
DISPUTED BORDER AREAS BY SAYING ALL RIGHT WITH GOH IF ALL
RIGHT WITH GOES. GOES AND REPORTEDLY GOH NOW INSISTING ON
REQUEST FOR OVER-FLIGHT CLEARANCE THROUGH DIPLOMATIC
CHANNELS, I.E. FROM US EMBASSIES.

2. EMBASSY HAD HEARD OVER LAST WEEKEND FROM RELIABLE SOURCE THAT GOES WAS CONCERNED OVER NEARNESS THIS INSPECTION TO FRASER HEARINGS AND SOMEHOW ASSOCIATED THE TWO. THIS CONCERN WAS SUPPOSED TO HAVE BEEN RESOLVED, LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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HOWEVER.

3. WE BELIEVE SOUTHCOM ON-SPOT CHECK OF UTILIZATION OF HELICOPTERS LEGITIMATE AND UNDERSTAND THAT INSPECTORS CONCERNED ONLY WITH OPERATIONAL MATTERS AND WOULD NOT TOUCH ON POLITICAL QUESTIONS, SUCH AS MEDIATION AGREEMENT.

4. ON LATTER POINT WE HAVE JUST HEARD FROM A RELIABLE SOURCE OUTSIDE GOVERNMENT THAT SALVADORAN RATIFICATION, AND ASSEMBLY ACTION ON ADVICE AND CONSENT, MAY BE HELD UP TO ALLOW TIME FOR EL SALVADOR TO REFINE AND STRENGTHEN ITS DOCUMENTATION OF BORDER CLAIMS, WHICH GOES KNOWS TO BE WEAK. THIS COULD BE IN PART SOURCE OF CURRENT SENSITIVITY. (WE WILL CHECK ON THIS REPORT.)

5. WE BELIEVE CHANNEL FOR CLEARANCE OF OVERFLIGHT
SHOULD BE THROUGH OAS TO GOVERNMENTS CONCERNED. EMBASSY
SHOULD NOT BE INVOLVED IN REQUESTING OR ACQUIRING SUCH
CLEARANCES. AS A PRACTICAL MATTER ONLY THE OAS CAN
EFFECTIVELY COORDINATE CLEARANCE IN THIS OPERATION INVOLVING
BOTH HONDURAS AND EL SALVADOR. IF OAS CANNOT ARRANGE FOR
CLEARANCES THE OVER- LIGHT INSPECTION WILL HAVE TO BE
CANCELLED. IF DODCONSIDERS THIS PART OF MISSION
OPERATIONALLY NECESSARY I SUGGEST DEPARTMENT TAKE THIS
MATTER UP URGENTLY WITH OAS WASHINGTON TO DETERMINE BEST
COURSE OF ACTION, POSSIBLY THROUGH SALVADORAN AND
HONDURAS MISSIONS TO OAS.
LUBENSKY

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